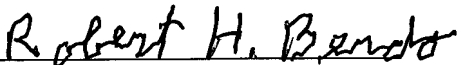


### REMARKS

In view of the Disclaimer (copy attached) of the term of U.S. Patent 6,156,905, subsequent to August 21, 2002 by the assignee of that patent, Novartis AG, applicants have canceled claim 17. Claim 17, which corresponds substantially to claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,159,905, was previously added to this application in an Amendment filed December 4, 2001 for the purpose of initiating an interference with said U.S. Patent No. 6,156,905.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert H. Berdo  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 19,415

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.  
1300 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 659-9076

Dated: 9-10-03